

In the Drawings:

Please replace Figures 1-13 with the attached replacement sheets 1-12.

Please add new Figures 14, 14a, 14b, 14c, 14d, 14e, 14f, 14g, and 15 as attached.

REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 9, 2008 has been received and its contents carefully noted. Claims 1-83 are pending in this application. With this paper, claims 45-64, 66-75, 77 and 78 are amended, claims 44 and 83 are canceled, and no new claims are added, so that claims 1-43 and 45-82 now remain pending in the application.

Information Disclosure Statement Objection

At section 2 of the Office action, the Office indicates that the listing of references in the specification is not a proper Information Disclosure Statement. Applicants submit herein an Information Disclosure Statement disclosing the references listed in the specification as well as other references for consideration by the Office.

Drawing Objections

At sections 3-5 of the Office action, the Office objects to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) and 37 CFR 1.121(d). Applicants submit herein new drawings in which every feature of the invention specified in the claims is represented in the drawings; specifically, each step claimed in method claims 1-43 is represented in new figures 14, 14a-14g and 15. Applicants also submit replacement drawings, Figures 1-13, which are of a high quality with proper shading and English labels. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the drawing objections.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph

At sections 6-7 of the Office action, the Office rejects claims 44-83 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, claims 44-83 are rejected as claiming both an apparatus and the method steps of using the apparatus. Applicant has canceled claims 44 and 83, and amended claim 45 to remove reference to the method steps of claim 1; claims 46-64, 66-75 and 77-78 have also been amended to change their dependencies from canceled claim 44 to independent claim 45. No new matter has been introduced by way of amendment. As amended, claims 45-82 only recite features directed to an apparatus. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 45-82 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101

At sections 8-9 of the Office action, the Office rejects claims 44-83 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Specifically, claims 44-83 are rejected as claiming neither a "process" nor a "machine," but rather embrace or overlap two different statutory classes of invention set forth in 35 USC §101. Applicant has canceled claims 44 and 83, and amended claim 45 to remove reference to the method steps of claim 1; claims 46-64, 66-75 and 77-78 have also been amended to change their dependencies from canceled claim 44 to independent claim 45. No new matter has been introduced by way of amendment. As amended, claims 45-82 only recite features directed to an apparatus, thus the claims are directed solely to a "machine" in one statutory class of invention in accordance with 35 USC §101. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 45-82 under 35 USC §101.

Allowable Subject Matter

At sections 10-12 of the Office action, the Office indicates that claims 1-43 are allowed. Applicants acknowledge the allowed claims and thank the Office for its kind consideration.

CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons it is believed that claims 1-43 and 45-82 are in condition for allowance and their passage to issue is earnestly solicited. Applicant's agent urges the Office to call to discuss the present response if anything in the present response is unclear or unpersuasive.

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Respectfully submitted,



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